Hosta Happenings

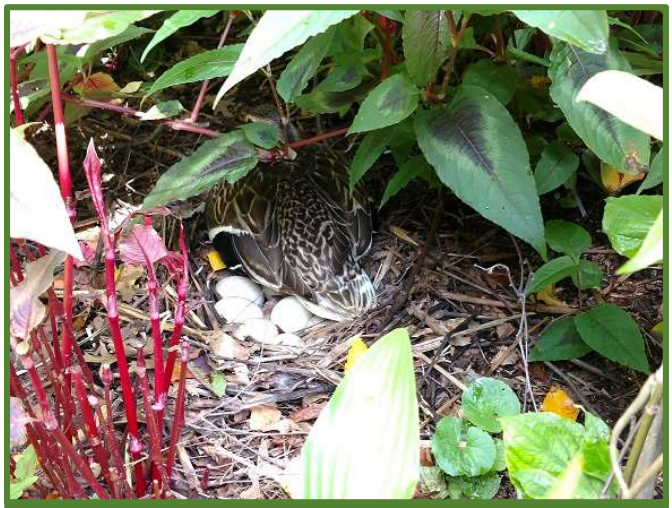
East Tennessee Hosta Society July 2020

Editor's Note

I'm a little late getting out this newsletter. Why? Well, our first grandchild, a lovely little girl, was born late last week. So, just a little preoccupied! I think you can all understand!

And, this newsletter is a little shorter than normal because we haven't had any events to talk about! So, enjoy the photos of from some of our members. And, if you ever want to share pics of your gardens, feel free to send them my way.

Mary Albrecht
Communications Director



Female mallard duck on nest in the Tranquility Hosta Garden. Photo taken June 25, 2020 by Mary Albrecht.

2020 Officers

President Fred Anderson
Vice President Bob Goeltz
Treasurer Gina Buffum
Secretary Cheryl Ferrone
Communications Mary Albrecht
(plantprof@gmail.com)
Contact ETHS at
easttennhostasociety@gmail.com

Welcome Our Newest Members

Mike and Joy Blankenship
Dr. J.J. Shay and Mr. Roland Siegfield

ETHS Calendar

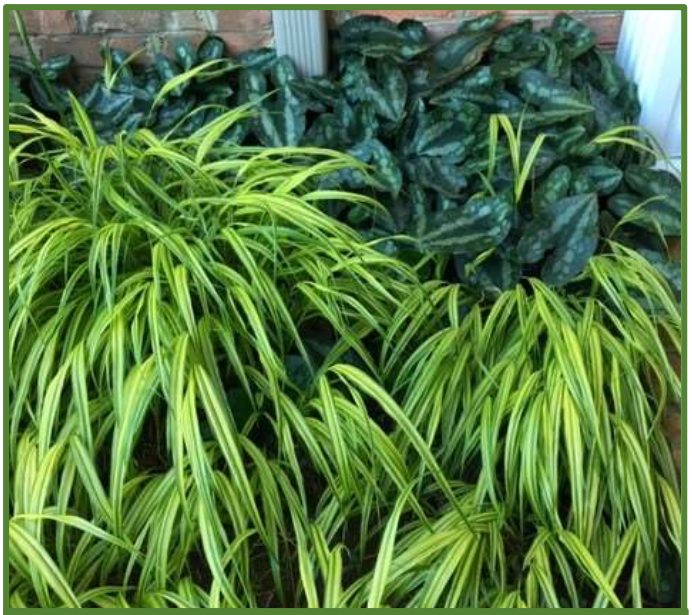
CANCELLED - July 25, Saturday, 10:30 am: Garden Tour

TO BE DETERMINED - August 23, Sunday, 10:30 am: Presentation by Bob Solberg at Anderson Estate

September 19, Saturday, time TBD: Plant Nursery Tour

October 25, Sunday, time TBD: Fall Garden Tour

November 22, Sunday, 2:00 pm: End of Year Meeting, annual general meeting and social



Hakone grass and arum – two great companion plants for hosta. Photo courtesy of Faye Beck

American Hosta Society

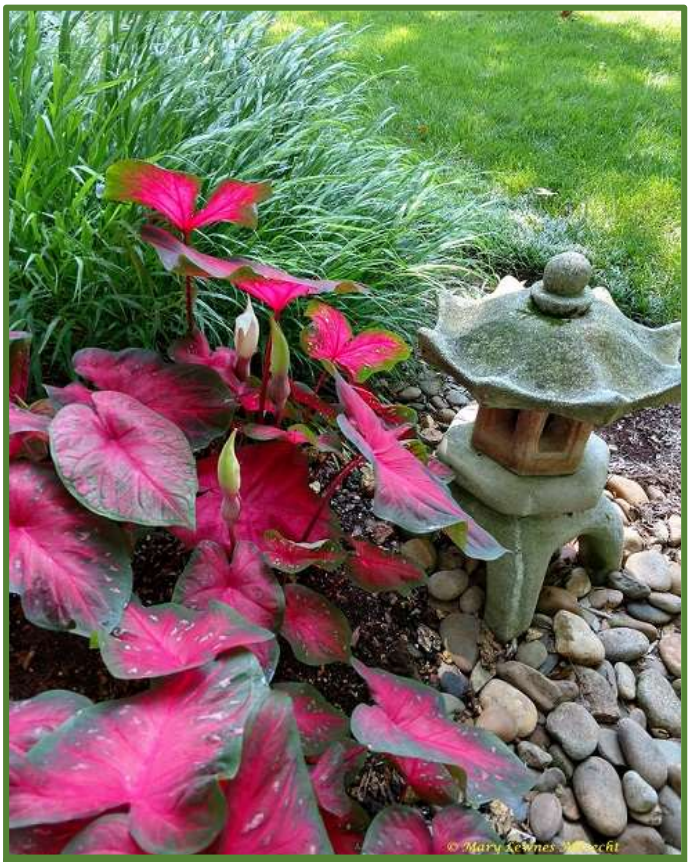
National Convention

Postponed to 2022

Minneapolis MN

For more info on 2022, go to https://hostavision2020.com/

2021 will be in Kalamazoo, MI. Stay tuned for more info.



Summer companion plants - red caladium and hakone grass. Photo courtesy of Mary Albrecht.

Debunking Gardening Myths

Myth #5: Sunshine focused through water droplets will burn leaves.

The diffused rays of the sun are not powerful enough to cause burning. If it were the case that water droplets burned leaves, farmers would encounter huge losses after each daytime rainstorm. In fact, lawn care professionals often cool turf by spritzing water over the foliage during the hottest part of the day. In general, the best time to water most garden plants is early in the morning because of higher municipal water pressure, a lower evaporation rate, and the potential to reduce foliar diseases that often occur in overly moist situations. But if you are left with no other choice, watering midday will not harm your plants. Best practice is not to water in the evening as any excess water on the foliage may not dry and encourage disease. Realize there are some fungi that need standing water for spore germination; others require high humidity. Therefore, water management is important to prevent disease.

August Gardening Activities

Summer months were covered in the July newsletter. August should be the time to relax and enjoy the fruits of your labor. Continue to remove weeds as they appear and monitor for disease problems. The "dog days of summer" is when you don't want to miss the start of a disease. The heat will encourage more rapid growth and spread of pathogens due to irrigation. Weather conditions this summer are conducive to fungal and bacterial diseases, including bacterial leaf streak on hosta, in the garden that may be caused by *Erwinia*, *Pseudomonas*, *Xanthomonas*, and *Acidovorax*. (see http://www.hostalibrary.org/articles/Bacteria.htm)

Agricultural streptomycin is considered organic and is designed to combat difficult diseases bacterial wilt on chrysanthemum; bacterial spot on tomatoes; and crown gall on roses. It is labeled for use on a variety of ornamentals for bacterial leaf spot, bacterial leaf rot, bacterial stem rot, bacterial blight (*Pseudomonas* spp. and *Xanthomonas* spp.), bacterial wilt (*Pseudomonas solanacearum*), and soft rot (*Erwinia* spp.) [from https://www3.epa.gov/pesticides/chem_search/ppls/055146-00098-20160523.pdf, May 23, 2016; viewed July 26, 2020). One reason streptomycin is used in organic production systems is that it was isolated in the naturally occurring soil organism *Streptomyces griseus*, was isolated in 1943 and has been used extensively ever since. Some human pathogens are now resistant to it (https://www.britannica.com/science/streptomycin, viewed July 26, 2020).